

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of determining abnormality of nozzles in an imaging apparatus having a plurality of ejection nozzles, comprising:

a first step of performing a function liquid droplet ejection confirming operation to determine whether or not function liquid droplets are normally ejected from the respective ejection nozzles by using liquid droplet detection means before performing the imaging operation;

a second step of performing the function liquid droplet ejection confirming operation once again when the ejection of the function liquid droplets from any of said ejection nozzles is determined to be abnormal in the first step; and

a third step of judging said ejection nozzle to be abnormal when the ejection of the function liquid droplets from an identical ejection nozzle is determined to be abnormal also in the second step.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a fourth step of performing a maintenance work when any of the ejection nozzles is judged to be abnormal, thereby restoring said ejection nozzles to a state in which the function liquid droplets are ejected normally;

a fifth step of performing the function liquid droplet ejection confirming operation once again after the fourth step; and

a sixth step of transferring to the imaging work when the function liquid droplets are determined to be ejected normally from all of said ejection nozzles in the fifth step.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the maintenance operation is a preliminary ejection operation of ejecting the function liquid droplets from the ejection nozzles.

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising:

a seventh step of performing the function liquid droplet ejection confirming operation once again after a second maintenance work to remove the function liquid droplets from said ejection nozzles when the function liquid droplet ejection is determined to be abnormal also in the fifth step; and

an eighth step of issuing an instruction of replacing the head unit when the ejection of the function liquid droplets is determined to be abnormal even after the seventh step.

5. An imaging apparatus in which the method of determining abnormality of nozzles according to claim 1 is executed.

6. An electrooptic device having formed a film formation part by ejecting the function liquid droplets onto the workpiece from the liquid droplet ejection heads with the imaging apparatus according to claim 5.

7. A method of manufacturing an electrooptic device, comprising the step of forming a film formation part by ejecting the function liquid droplets onto the workpiece from the liquid droplet ejection heads with the imaging apparatus according to claim 5.

8. An electronic equipment having mounted thereon the electrooptic device according to claim 6.

9. An electronic equipment having mounted thereon the electrooptic device manufactured by the method of manufacturing an electrooptic device according to claim 7.